

broader and shorter, nasals wider; orbital ridge not depressed in centre, and orbits therefore more rounded in shape; brain-case more rounded posteriorly and on a level with orbital ridge and rising gradually to occiput, which is higher than the orbits; while the brain-case of *P. maimon* curves downward to occiput, which lies lower than the rostral ridges, so that the superior outlines of these brain-cases of these species are widely different; bony palate not so much contracted posteriorly; basi-occipital more abruptly descending to pterygoid fossa; tooth-row much longer; occipital region much more slanting, that of *P. maimon* being nearly perpendicular; second upper molar of new species much larger, and the second lower molar smaller than the corresponding teeth of *P. maimon*. It will be readily seen from the above comparison that the two skulls are almost entirely different in nearly all respects. All the skulls came from the same locality and the range of the species is not known. The type is in the Berlin Museum, and I am indebted to Herr Paul Matschie, the Curator of the Mammalogical Department, for the privilege of describing it.

XXXV.—*A new Species of Fossa from Central Madagascar.*
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Fossa majori, sp. n.

In size and general proportions similar to Buffon's Fossane (*F. fossa*, Schr.), but having continuous stripes on the back and sides, and not, as in that species, irregular stripes on the anterior part of the back, breaking up into spots posteriorly.

Fur longer and rather harsher than in *F. fossa*, individual hairs of back measuring about 30 mm. in length. General colour of back a rich tawny-russet, darker in the middle line, and gradually getting lighter towards the sides. Four broad, well-marked, dark brown stripes down middle of back, breaking up into indistinct spots at base of tail. The outer pair of these stripes extends forwards almost up to the ears, while the inner two gradually disappear about 40 mm. behind this point. Along each side of the body are two dark brown lateral stripes, extending back as far as the point of insertion of the hind legs, where they break up into a few large spots. Forehead a rich Mars-brown colour, becoming paler and greyer on the muzzle and sides of the face. Under surface of body buff-coloured, rather lighter

towards the throat. Upper side of tail rufous russet, the anterior portion blotched with indistinct dark spots. Under side of tail tawny russet.

Skull smaller and with much smaller auditory bullæ, the greatest length of the bullæ being only 11.5 mm., while in *F. fossa* they measure 15 mm. in length.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 480 mm.; tail 265; hind foot 78; ear 32.

Skull: greatest length 93; zygomatic breadth 43; greatest length of nasals 23; length of upper tooth-row, from front of first premolar to back of last molar, 31.5.

Hab. Ambohitombo, near Ambositra, Central Madagascar.

Type. Immature male. B.M. no. 97. 9. 1. 115. Original no. 167. Collected 22 January, 1895, by Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major.

The continuous dorsal and lateral stripes, together with the more rufous colouring of the back and the much smaller auditory bullæ, indicate that this form must be considered quite distinct from *F. fossa*. I propose to call it *F. majori*, after Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major, who collected the specimen during his famous expedition in Madagascar in 1895.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Catalogue of the Fresh-water Fishes of Africa in the British Museum (Natural History). Vol. I. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1909.

It is expected that not less than three volumes will be required to complete the 'Catalogue of the Fresh-water Fishes of Africa,' to which subject Mr. Boulenger has devoted many years of study. The present volume contains an account of the Selachii, Crossopterygii, and Dipneusti, and of the Teleostean suborder Malacopterygii and part of the Ostariophysii.

That the time is ripe for the appearance of such a Catalogue as this admits of no question, for during the past decade an enormous increase in our knowledge of the Fresh-water Fishes of Africa has been made, and types of most of the large number of new generic and specific forms are deposited in the British Museum. Nearly every species described in this volume is figured, and some of these figures, as in the case of the Mormyridæ, are remarkable for the high degree of specialization which they indicate, especially in regard to feeding-habits.

Though larval forms are occasionally referred to, in no case are these figured; yet we venture to think that such figures would have added not a little to the value of this work. Similarly, it has been